

**CITY OF LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
LONG BEACH SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION**

MINUTES

October 21, 2004

LOCATION:

Houghton Park Community Center
6301 Myrtle Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90805

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Higginson, Chair, called the meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. at Houghton Park Community Center.

II. FLAG SALUTE – Commissioner Higginson, Chair

III. ROLL CALL / WELCOME OF GUESTS

The following Commissioners responded to roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Patricia Bergendahl, 6th District
Barbara J. Bolin, 9th District
Henry Brunner, 7th District - Excused
Rose Cabanban, 7th District
Betty Davenport, 5th District
Florence Dodge, 3rd District
Rita Ellner, 2nd District
Teodoro Felix, 1st District

Rabbi Sidney Guthman, 3rd District - Excused
Mary Hernandez, 7th District
Nancy Higginson, 3rd District
Vivian Linderman, 8th District
Teresa Munoz, 2nd District - Excused
Lu Wall, 3rd District
Berry Yolken, 3rd District - Excused

Staff

Belem Solis, Community Recreation Superintendent
Del Ransom, Clerk II
Shelley Hellen, Community Services Supervisor
Eileen Ludlam, Recreation Assistant

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 23, 2004

The September 23, 2004 Senior Citizen Advisory Commission Minutes were approved as mailed.

V. GUEST SPEAKER (S)

Rachel Price, graduate student of California State University of Long Beach, spoke to the Commission on the newly projected California DMV - License Renewal System to better access drivers.

VI. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Martha Vang of the Carmelitos Housing Community asked the Commission for advice on how to get senior programs in the Carmelitos Senior Center.

Commissioner Higginson asked Ms. Vang to send a formal letter requesting such help.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Commissioner Linderman received the Specialized Transportation Guide from Access Services.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Legislation – Commissioner Munoz

The Legislation Committee had nothing to report.

- B. Transportation – Commissioners Bolin and Linderman

Transportation Committee Chair Vivian Linderman met with Dick Stillwell, LB Transit Manager of Service Development and members of his staff on Tuesday, October 05, 2004. Staff members present included Stillwell, Rhea Mealey; Marketing Manager, Denise Hayes; Special Services Assistant, Dan Rosenfeld; Local Government/Community Relations Representative and Sue the Dial-a-Ride Coordinator. At the meeting, Vivian was introduced to all aspects of LB Transit and even toured one of their low-floor buses. Services Offered include: Aqua Link, Aqua Bus, The Passport, Dial-a-Lift (Yellow Cab), Pine Ave. Link, Tour d'Art, Museum & Garden Tour, Bus Routes (Access services is available, but part of a county agreement), Dial-a-Lift and Access are curb to curb services based on RSVP's. Access is complimentary. All coaches now have "low-floors" which meet the curb when the bus "kneels." There is no longer a need to climb steps to get into or off the bus. All coaches now have wheelchair access from the front door. Chairs are strapped into position towards the front. Priority seating is available to the elderly and the disabled. (attachment)

- C. Health Care – Commissioner Yolken

The Health Care Committee had nothing to report.

- D. Housing – Commissioners Felix, Wall and Cabanban

Commissioner Felix informed the Commission of the updates on the Long Beach Coalition to Save Section 8. In his report he told how the Long Beach-Housing Authority would not Increase rents, restrict moves to higher cost units, restrict moves to higher rent cities and would not propose policy changes at this time.

E. Safety and Crime Prevention – Commissioners Bergendahl, Guthman and Brunner

Commissioner Bergendahl distributed information on Community Team Building Forums, Police Recruitment and Community Crime Prevention flyers and articles from the Crime Watch Newsletter.

F. Quality of Life and Leisure – Commissioners Dodge and Hernandez

Commissioner Dodge informed the Commission that three programs/classes have been eliminated, but four new programs/classes have been added.

G. Community Relations – Commissioners Davenport and Ellner

Commissioner Ellner informed the Commission that she has been corresponding with various newspapers to promote absentee ballots.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Senior Directory

Commissioner Wall has spoken to former Commissioner Teofilo and stated that she is still available to help with the directory.

Commissioners Wall and Dodge will meet to discuss the Directory with Commissioner Yolken.

B. Senior Briefing - Voting Preparation

Commission Ellner expressed that she was very disappointed that out of 15 Commissioners only five attended.

C. Senior Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan Committee sent letters to the Senior Citizen Advisory Commissioners asking for the attendance at the December 14, 2004, City Council meeting.

D. Additional Parking for the Long Beach Senior Center

Community Recreation Superintendent, Belem Solis informed the Commission that she and Acting Manager of Community Recreation Services, Bert Srack have met with Vince Abe of Community Development's, Property Leasing Department to discuss the parking lot at 4th and Cerritos. The next step will be to meet with Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee

Commissioner Higginson informed Commission that a nominating committee would be selected in the November meeting.

B. Age Restraint

Commissioner Linderman informed the Commission that she did not meet the age requirement of the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission.

Commissioner Higginson stated that the Commission should not make amendments to the By-laws.

XI. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Shelley Hellen, Community Services Supervisor, reported on senior activities and programs at the Long Beach Senior Center. Mrs. Hellen also informed the Commission of their Safety Fair held on October 19, 2004, at the Long Beach Senior Center. (Attachment)
- B. Eileen Ludlam, Recreation Assistant, reported on senior activities at Houghton Park Community Center. (Attachment)

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The Cesar E. Chavez Community Center will begin Senior programming in January 2005. This new Senior Center is located at 401 Golden Avenue, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

The Executive Board meeting of the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission will be held on Thursday, November 4, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., at the Long Beach Senior Center. In attendance will be Commissioners Nancy Higginson, Berry Yolken, Lu Wall, and Rose Cabanban.

The General Commission meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at the California Community Recreation Center, 1515 Martin Luther King Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Higginson adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.